Properties Committee Meeting
September 28, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Village Hall

Present: Chairwoman Cavanagh, Council members Canton and Rensel, Mayor Koons, Street Commissioner Young, Chief Rizzo

Enbridge Gas Line Project Preparations

- AWP will manage traffic control for the Enbridge gas line project, anticipated to start at Alderwood near the park.
- Pre- and post-work camera televising will assess tie-ins, placement, and sewer conditions.
- OUPS has marked all utilities, explaining flags along the roadway.
- The Street Commissioner will monitor contractor progress; contractor tentatively identified as "Precision" pending confirmation.

Village Signage, Flagpoles, and Corner Lot Planning

- New Village sign to mirror park sign style; options include a 3D/sandblasted sign, angled at 45 degrees for multi-directional visibility, potentially double-sided to inform visitors.
- Vendors to consider include Middlefield Sign (favored for speed and advice), Willow (Dave), and Brent; specifics to be defined before seeking bids.
- Plan to consolidate flagpoles: remove poles at Village Hall and service building; install one new pole on the corner lot near the sign; PD flagpole remains. New pole to display U.S., State of Ohio, and POW/MIA flags; power available for lighting.
- On-site field meeting proposed to stake sign, flagpole, plantings, and a possible path; stakes to visualize placement.

Landscaping and Planting Plan

- New plantings will mirror existing park plantings; ensure adequate setback from road to avoid salt spray and maintain intersection sightlines. Bell Road planting distances will be measured as a reference.
- Overgrown grasses by the Village park sign may be split and moved to South Park; new plants will be purchased for the corner project to keep it distinct.
- Grasses to be placed at sign bed ends to avoid obstructing signage.
- Preliminary plant list includes viburnum, hydrangea, Solomon's seal, and grasses; sourcing considered from local vendors (Art Farm, Lutie's, Chagrin Pet).
- No benches will be added now; space will be reserved for a potential future trail, likely starting along Bell Street.

Dirt Pile Relocation for Landscaping

- Existing dirt behind the police station will be relocated for landscape mounds at a cost of approximately $3,000; work scheduled to begin 2026-10-01.
- A top layer of higher-quality bed mix will be added after placement.

Holiday Decorations Plan and Safety

- Proceeding with last year's park aesthetic; no "twelve small trees with white lights" unless donated.
- Big center tree to have color lights; smaller trees white lights.
- Interested businesses include the gas station and veterinary office; Dry Insurance not interested. Outreach will start earlier this year; capacity constraints acknowledged (team of four).
- Safety: rented lift from Handy Rents reserved for the last week of October; strict harness/fall arrest, helmets, no exiting the basket; limited roof walking (PD only).
- Schedule: complete high work before adverse weather; ground work through November.

ADA-Accessible Path to Playground and Courts

- Complaint noted about lack of ADA path. Measured options: ~150 ft (pavilion to playground) vs. ~180 ft (parking lot to playground). Estimated 220 linear ft for budgeting (5 ft width).
- Surface options: concrete ($\sim 19/lf,\ 20 - yearlife, jointstocontrolcracking$) $vs. packedcrushedstone$(4.36/lf materials; lower cost but maintenance required). Brick is currently disliked due to weeds; concrete could be stamped/dyed to resemble brick.
- Both surfaces can be ADA-compliant; concrete likely draws fewer complaints. Usage patterns favor parking lot to playground; pavilion route is shorter. Drainage considerations include possible culvert/bridge; cover drainage lines with geotextile and topsoil/grass as intended.
- Impervious surface cap (~30%) to be confirmed with Pete McDonald before final material selection.
- General lean toward a packed crushed-stone ADA path from the parking lot to playground; final decision pending impervious check and further input.

Bocce Court Usage, Rules, and Equipment Etiquette

- Conflict between general users and leagues due to first-come, first-serve policy; rental/scheduling policy unclear. Pavilion and court use needs clarification.
- Signage to clarify rules and manage expectations discussed; proposed rules:
    - Wear flat, soft-soled shoes.
    - Walk, don't run; stay along edges.
    - No food, drinks, bikes, chairs, or objects on the court.
- Equipment access debate (lock with code vs. open access); education event planned for spring ("learn to play bocce" with pizza). Community donations acknowledged (balls, cabinet, scoreboard, holders, markers, planters).

Playground Management and Additions

- Concerns about unsupervised children; bocce court proximity to playground may contribute to issues.
- Discussion on moving two benches and possibly adding picnic tables; not all agree. Benches currently staggered; assessment needed.

- Toddler equipment additions: leaning toward purchasing four items (include low slide, more swings incl. baby swings, plus 1–2 elements like a lotus-leaf seat) without a public survey; requires site walk to confirm space and ADA path connections.

Deer Population and Land Stewardship

- Ongoing concerns about deer impacts on gardens and park plantings; emphasis on stewardship and protecting new trees with mesh.
- Data: animal-related crashes under 5% of total; some years none.
- ODNR-managed programs currently firearm-based; community preference leans bow-only. Neighboring communities (Moreland Hills bow policy; Pepper Pike culling history) may inform approach.
- Cavanagh to follow up with ODNR (Jeff Westfield) and has contacted Ed Nozzi; expect resident pushback; frame communications around safety and ecological impacts. Park committee favors protecting plantings over replanting beech.

Rarick Tree Removal Project

- Rarick commenced removing large logs; processing began 2026-09-28; hauling scheduled 2026-09-29 (moved earlier due to forecast). Waivers obtained for 103; Cotesworth caretaker agreed to sign.

Derelict Properties and Code Enforcement

- Long-standing violations at 1233, 1309, 1269 reviewed; Building Department frustration noted. Police prosecutor Dennis Coyne exploring code exceptions for disabled individuals; Ruth to follow up.
- Volunteer cleanup idea (Scouts) limited by safety constraints (no ladders).

Temporary Trailer-Mounted Digital Notification Sign

- Proposal for a mobile digital sign (~$15,422) to announce events like Trash Day or cancellations; explore grants.
- Next step: confirm permissibility with Building Department (Dave) before proceeding to Planning/ABR.

Sign Procurement and Communications

- Street Department reported good results sourcing signs via Amazon; continue procurement through that channel.
- Route sign-related communications to Ruth and team.

Park and Property Maintenance

- Wilbur property mowed; sections between north and south park mowed for the season.
- Campus cleanup ongoing per Chris Berger's suggestions; dead tree removed; additional trees marked for removal with stump grinding to follow.

Solar Power Information Sheet

- Cavanagh and Building Department Administrative Assistant to condense a non-binding informational sheet on solar power and transitioning to fully electric households.

Tree City USA and Beech Programs

- General disinterest in Tree City USA due to ~$8,000 annual cost and added bureaucracy; decision not to pursue at this time.

Minutes

- The committee approved the minutes of the 8-10-2026 and 8-17-2026 meetings.

Conclusions and Decisions

- Proceed with last year's holiday decor plan minus the 12 small trees; prioritize safety and early scheduling.
- Consolidate flagpoles to a single pole on the corner lot; PD pole remains.
- Relocate dirt pile for landscaping starting 2026-10-01; add quality bed mix.
- Landscaping to proceed without benches, reserving space for a future trail; plant list preliminary and to be finalized at purchase.